

# CHAPTER 8

## COMPLAINANT BACKGROUND

The statistics reported in this chapter are based on the data collected from voluntary surveys completed by complainants. However, the totals reported in this chapter and the totals in Chapter 5 are different because not all complainants provided their background information. The accuracy of the data in this chapter is dependent solely on the information reported by the complainants.

**Illustration B: Ethnicity of Complainant**

Ethnicity	Complainants	%	% of San Jose Population
African American	45	22%	3%
Asian American	8	4%	27%
European American	58	28%	36%
Filipino American	2	1%	0%
Hispanic/Latino	69	34%	30%
Native American	3	1%	0%
Vietnamese	1	0%	1%
Other	5	2%	3%
Decline	14	7%	0%
Total	205	100%	100%

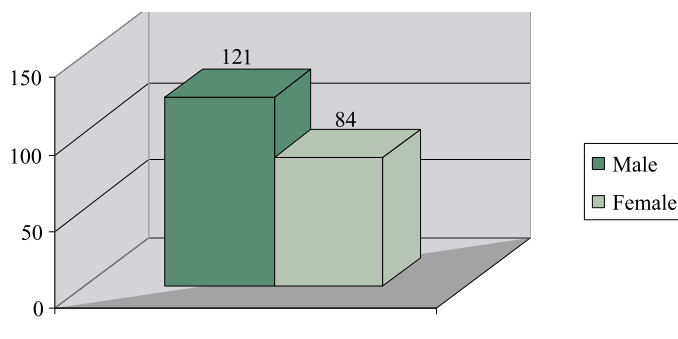
It is important to note that 56% of all voluntary questionnaires were not returned, and these numbers and percentages are based on the data contained only on the returned questionnaires.

### ***GENDER OF COMPLAINANT***

Illustration A provides a visual representation of the gender of the complainant from the period beginning January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2001.

There was a total of 461 cases received in the year 2001, 334 of which required a full investigation. One hundred and twenty-one (121) male and 84 female complainants responded by returning the survey for a sample of 205 complainants in the year 2001. Keeping with past trends, there were more male complainants than female. Complaints filed by male complainants accounted for 59% of all complaints. Complaints made by female complainants accounted for 41%.

**Illustration A: Gender of Complainant**



### *ETHNICITY OF COMPLAINANT*

The information in this section is for the period beginning January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001. Complainants of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity filed the largest number of cases. This group reported 69 complaints according to the voluntary surveys collected from the complainants, which represents 34% of all reported cases. This percentile is consistent with the 30% of Hispanic/Latino people that make up the entire population of San José. While the trend has been for Hispanic/Latino people to report the largest number of complaints, there was a significant decrease of 91 cases filed by Hispanics/Latinos in 2001.

European Americans filed the second highest number of cases, reporting 58 cases in the year 2001. This number of complaints represents 28% of all cases being filed. Because European Americans make up 36% of the entire San José population, the number of complaints they file, as compared to the population they

represent in San José, is low.

This is a continuing trend from the year 2000.

African Americans reported 45 cases in the year 2001. This is the third highest number of complaints filed. This is a decrease of 10 cases from 2000. African Americans make up 3% of the entire San José population; however, they filed 22% of all cases. The number of cases filed by African Americans is high in comparison to the percentage of population they represent in San Jose.

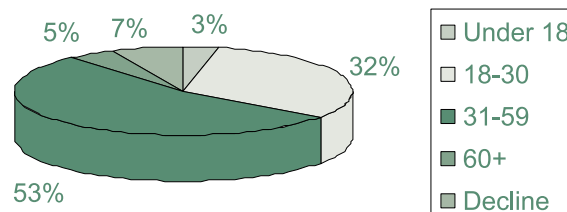
### *AGE OF THE COMPLAINANT*

Illustration C illustrates the age of the complainant for the period beginning January 1 through December 31, 2001. The largest

number of cases filed was from individuals between the ages of 31 and 59 years. This past trend continued in 2001. What is worth noting is that there was a significant increase in the number of cases received from individuals over 60 years of age in the year 2000. In 2001 the number of cases received from this same age group decreased from 36 in 2000 to 10 in 2001.

Overall in 2001, seven cases were reported from individuals under the age of 18 years. 65 cases were reported from individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 years. 109 cases were reported from individuals between the ages of 31 and 59 years, and 10 cases were received from persons over the age of 60.

**Illustration C: Age of Complainant**



### ***EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THE COMPLAINANT***

There was no significant change in the levels of education for individuals filing complainants from the year 2000 to 2001. Surveys conducted by the IPA reveal that 49% of individuals initiating citizen complaints against San José police officers in 2001 have received an education beyond the twelfth grade. Additionally, 22% of those have attended college four years or more. These figures continue to discredit the general perception that most complainants are uneducated members of the community.

### ***COMPLAINANT'S OCCUPATION***

Illustration D provides a description of the occupations held by complainants. The information on this chart is for the period beginning January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001. As evident by the information presented in the chart, most complainants are employed in blue-collar jobs. 14% of all complainants surveyed

### **Illustration D: Occupation of Complainant**

Complainant's Occupation	
Administration	15
Disabled	10
Homemaker	6
Government	5
Laborer	29
Professional	18
Retired	3
Self-employed	6
Services	38
Student	17
Technical	12
Unemployed	13
Decline	33

fall into this category. Complainants in this category work as drivers, janitors, construction workers, etc. 8% of all complainants work in professions such as lawyers, doctors, managers, etc. 6% of all complainants work in technical jobs such as engineers, technicians, electricians, etc., and 10% of complainants are students attending college, technical, equivalency, or vocational schools.

These figures and percentages were obtained through our voluntary questionnaire survey pro-

cess, and it is important to note that 53% of the surveys mailed to all complainants were not returned. There were 433 voluntary questionnaires mailed to complainants, and 205 were completed and returned.